CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

During the year alterations in the area of the State forests were effected as shown in Form No. 46. The following abstract statement shows the result of these changes :—

Class of Forests.	Area on 1st July 1896.	Added during the year.	Excluded or transferred during the year.	Area on 30th June 1897.	Remarks.
	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	
Reserved forests...	1,184 385	8 153	1 383	1,191 155	
Protected do. ...	434 48	.....	0 19	434 29	
Leased do. ...	678 320	.....	.....	678 320	
Total ...	2,297 113	8 153	1 402	2,303 504	

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

2. Mr. Orr, I.C.S., was virtually the Forest Settlement Officer in Thána from 1st July 1896 to 28th February 1897. On the 7th July he fell ill and was compelled to take two months' privilege leave. Mr. MacIver, of the Survey Department, took over the office during this period. On his return from leave Mr. Orr was again in charge, and till about the end of October had no other work. At the end of October Mr. Orr was made Assistant Collector, Poona, but continued in charge of the Settlement Office, in addition to his own duties, till the end of February. On 1st March the charge of the Settlement Office was transferred to Mr. Hudson, I.C.S., First Assistant Collector, Bassein Sub-division, in addition to his own duties, who has held it to the end of the year.

3. The settlement and demarcation proposals of the Dáhánu, Umbargaon and Murbád Ranges, which were submitted to Government, were sanctioned by them during the year under Government Resolutions Nos. 4934 and 5052, dated 1st and 6th July 1897, of Revenue Department, respectively.

4. Areas, as detailed below, were obtained by purchase and exchange during the year :—

	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
Acquired by payment of compensation ...	885 30	10,420 1 9
Do. by exchange ...	... ...	...

5. The following statement gives the details of cost of Forest Settlement Officer and his establishment during the year :—

Division.	Forest Settlement Officer.		Office Establishment.		Contingencies.	Total.
	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Thána	3,844 1 2	405 5 2	1,980 9 10	432 5 10	283 13 6	6,946 3 6